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## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

**72-HOUR REPORT****24 DECEMBER 2018**

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**(U) CALIFORNIA****(U) Citrus Heights – Police Seize 530 Marijuana Plants During Search in Citrus Heights**

(U) Law enforcement officials arrested Xiao Hang Wang, 38, after detectives conducted a search of a home and discovered a massive illegal marijuana grow operation in Citrus Heights. A department spokesman described the operation as being “sophisticated,” including heat lamps and fans to care for the plants. Authorities seized 530 marijuana plants estimated to be worth more than \$450,000, according to police.

SOURCE: 21 December 2018, [Sacramento Bee](#)

**(U) Sacramento – California Department of Consumer Affairs Suffers Malware Attack**

(U) The California Department of Consumer Affairs suffered a malware attack on 19 December, affecting 50 workstations and disrupting computer networks. Only one of the 37 bureaus and boards within the department were affected in the malware strike according to officials. The department’s deputy director said in an email that the malware is known to the department and that the incident is under investigation. The department’s entire network was shut down as soon as the malware was noticed, but since the department uses different network systems to prevent viruses spreading, consumers were still able to visit its website. The department is investigating whether any consumer data had been breached.

SOURCE: 21 December 2018, [Sacramento Bee](#)

**(U) Elk Grove – Real Estate Agent Indicted in Scheme That Used Homes for Marijuana Grows**

(U) A federal grand jury indicted four people, two of them from the Sacramento area, on suspicion of conspiring to commit international money laundering in a scheme that involved a local real estate agency serving as an apparent front for indoor marijuana grows. Heidi Phong of Elk Grove and Feng Li of Sacramento, and two others face indictments on money laundering and marijuana manufacturing, according to a news release by the US Department of Justice. Phong operated HP Real Estate and Skye Investment LLC out of Sacramento, and used those companies to arrange for the use of wires from China to purchase residential real estate throughout the region that was intended to be converted into indoor marijuana grows. The scheme involved homes in Yuba and Sacramento counties.

SOURCE: 20 December 2018, [Sacramento Bee](#)

**(U) NATIONAL****(U) Georgia – Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Raw Turkey Leaves Over 200 Sick Across US**

(U) Atlanta – More than 200 people from across the United States have fallen ill, 84 of them hospitalized, from an ongoing salmonella outbreak linked to raw turkey products that prompted a second voluntary recall on 21 December, the US government said. Since then, 52 more people in 26 states and the District of Columbia have become sick from salmonella-tainted turkey, bringing the total number of documented cases to 216 in 38 states and the district. One death from the outbreak, which began in October, was reported in California, the CDC said.

SOURCE: 21 December 2018, [Reuters](#)

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**(U) Oklahoma – China National Charged With Stealing Trade Secrets**

(U) Bartlesville – The US Justice Department said on 21 December a Chinese national was arrested for stealing trade secrets from a US-based petroleum company, his employer, related to a product worth more than \$1 billion. The department alleged Hongjin Tan downloaded hundreds of files related to the manufacture of a “research and development downstream energy market product,” which he planned to use to benefit a company in China that had offered him a job. He was arrested in Oklahoma and will next appear in court on Wednesday, the department said. Tan was responsible for research and development of the US company’s battery program and developing battery technologies using its proprietary processes. Phillips 66 told the FBI it had earned an estimated \$1.4 billion to \$1.8 billion from the unspecified technology.

SOURCE: 21 December 2018, [Reuters](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) England – Drone Sightings Disrupt Airport**

(U) Gatwick – A series of drone sightings over the Gatwick airport runway forced Britain’s second-largest airport to shut three times in three days last week, causing hundreds of flights to be cancelled and an estimated 140,000 passengers to be stranded at the airport. Detectives were examining a damaged drone for clues after they had to release two people who were exonerated over the incidents that have repeatedly brought Gatwick airport to a standstill. Officials are actively investigating sightings of drone activity at Gatwick airport following 67 reports from the evening of 19 December to 21 December from the public, passengers, police officers and staff at the airport. The airport is now offering a £50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible.

SOURCE: 23 December 2018, [The Guardian](#)

**(U) France – Strasbourg Market Gunman Pledged Allegiance to ISIS**

(U) Strasbourg – A French judicial official says the alleged gunman who shot and killed five people in a Christmas market attack this month in Strasbourg had pledged allegiance to ISIS. The judicial official, who is not authorized to speak publicly about the investigation, said investigators have found a video stored on a USB key in which Cherif Chekatt had claimed allegiance to the extremist group. Chekatt, 29, died in a shootout with police two days after his 11 December attack at Strasbourg’s popular Christmas market. Shortly after his death, ISIS’s Amaq news agency claimed he was a “soldier” of the group. French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner had rejected the claim as “totally opportunistic.”

SOURCE: 22 December 2018, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Morocco – Moroccan Suspects in Killing of Scandinavian Women Were Acting Alone, After Pledging Alliance to ISIS**

(U) Imlil – Moroccan authorities believe four suspects in the killing of two Scandinavian women in the Atlas Mountains were acting on their own initiative, even though they had just pledged allegiance to ISIS, an official said yesterday. A spokesman for the Moroccan security and domestic intelligence services, also said the arrest of nine more people in the case had foiled a terror plot. The four suspects, aged between 25 and 33 years, had headed to the Imlil area intent on committing a crime but without selecting their target in advance. They had pledged allegiance to ISIS in a video made on the Friday before the bodies were found, but without agreeing this in advance with any foreign entity.

SOURCE: 23 December 2018, [Reuters](#)

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**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****(U) Somalia – Death Toll Rises to 26 From Weekend Attack**

(U) Mogadishu – The death toll rose to 26 from the 22 December twin bombings in Somalia's capital, police and hospital sources said today. The number rose because several victims of the suicide car blast near the rear entrance of the presidential palace died in hospitals in Mogadishu. The toll could rise further as several of the 20 wounded have serious injuries. Among the dead were seven soldiers who were escorting a government official through a checkpoint on their way to the presidential palace. The bomber targeted the checkpoint near the rear entrance of the heavily fortified palace, he said. A lawmaker and a deputy mayor of Mogadishu were among those wounded. The blasts appeared to target people heading to work on what was a business day in the Horn of Africa nation. Al-Shabaab, Somalia's extremist rebels who are allied to al-Qa'ida, claimed responsibility for the attacks.

SOURCE: 24 December 2018, [The Washington Post](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

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